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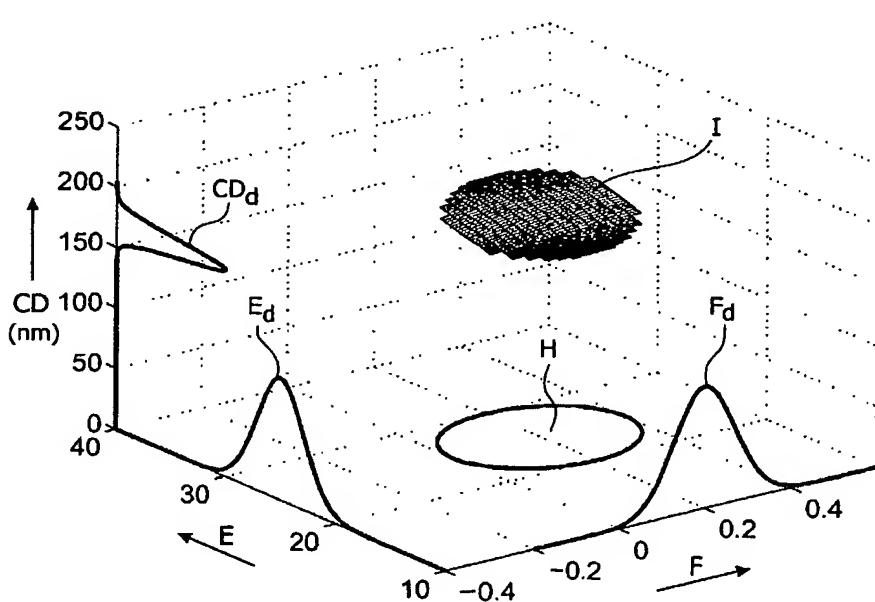
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— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DETERMINING LITHOGRAPHIC PARAMETERS TO OPTIMISE A PROCESS WINDOW



(57) Abstract: For determining best process variables (E, F, W) setting that provide optimum process window for a lithographic process for printing features having critical dimensions (CD) use is made of an overall performance characterizing parameter (C_{pk}) and of an analytical model, which describes CD data as a function of process parameters, like exposure dose (E) and focus (F). This allows calculating of the average value (μ_{CD}) and the variance (σ_{CD}) of the statistical CD distribution (CD_d) and to determine the highest C_{pk} value and the associated values of process parameters, which values provide the optimum process window.

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/085297 A1 (BOWES STEVE W ET AL) 4 July 2002 (2002-07-04) abstract paragraphs '0006!, '0007!, '0009!, '0022!; claims 1,2	1,2,5-11
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X	-----	1,2,5-11
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	page 2, line 24 – page 3, line 9 page 6, line 35 – page 7, line 6 page 9, lines 25-36 page 10, line 30 – page 11, line 2 page 13, lines 4-12 page 14, lines 23-34; claims 1,2,8,9,27 -----	3,4
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